

Experiencing Water Life at Seattle's Aquarium

By Mohamoud Ali, Shaq Polk, Muk de Guzman, Sam Hoard

Water provides life to many organisms. And for us to appreciate these different species of organisms, we went to the Seattle Aquarium. It was a great experience and we had so much fun.

The aquarium is located along the waterfront and it provided us an appreciation and a lot of information about aquatic life. We spent a great deal of time taking notes about the aquarium's aquatic animals and their environment, including biotic and abiotic factors: the living and non-living things that surround and affect aquatic plants and animals, including their habitat. For example, there are plants and animals that live in fresh water, such as lakes and rivers, and there are those that live in salt water, such as the ocean.

We also saw a rockfish that lives in the Pacific Ocean along the coast of Washington state. The fish lived among other sea organisms, such as sea urchins, starfish and corals and sea lilies. These biotic factors affect how the fish survives. The coral provides the fish a place to hide and eat planktons and other little creatures. The starfish and the sea urchins also provide the fish protection. If the other organisms die, the fish will die, too.

The abiotic factors surrounding the fish include the rocks, the sand and the water itself. The water maintains a certain temperature for the fish to keep staying comfortable. The sand and the rocks provide the corals a spot to grow over so that the fish can stay with the corals.

There are many more of these sea creatures that we saw that had different biotic and abiotic factors in their habitats. These factors are very crucial in the life of aquatic animals.

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Clams



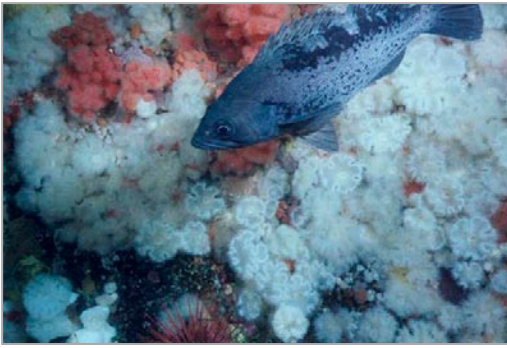
Sea otter



Cup coral in main tank of aquarium



Coral in main tank of aquarium



Rockfish and anemone

Right now, the earth and its oceans are beginning to warm because of climate change; the gradual warming of the atmosphere. Some of the aquatic creatures are being affected by warming water temperatures. Some of them could die, because even if only one of the biotic factors is affected, all of them could be affected.

We have learned that no creature lives independently of other creatures. They are all connected into one ecological system.

For more information about the Seattle Aquarium visit www.seattleaquarium.org

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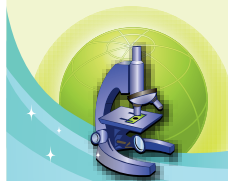
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